every year, Monaco attracts nine million and Switzerland and the U.K. get more than 60 million tourists whereas India lags way behind in comparison to these geographically smaller countries in tapping tourist potential and its share was a little over one million last year; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to promote tourism in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) According to the information available with the Government, the number of tourist arrivals in Singapore, Monaco, Switzerland and U.K. were about 6 million, 0.2 million, 12.8 million and 18.5 million respectively. The total tourist arrivals in India during the same year were about 1.87 million.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to promote tourism in Rajasthan include improvement of infrastructural facilities in the State and continued publicity of tourist attractions of Rajasthan in the overseas markets.

Setting up of floating hotel-cum-commercial complex in Bombay

3071. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a floating-hotel-cum-commercial complex to be set up in the Sea in Bombay at Cuffe Parade has been approved by Government; and

(b) if so, what is the cost of the project, its foreign exchange content and salient features?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Government has approved foreign investment in a hotel-cum-commercial complex project, off Bombay Shore, Greater Bombay. The joint venture company will have 51 per cent foreign equity and 20 per cent NRI equity.

Harassment by IA staff

3072. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two officials of Indian Airlines were put under suspension for dereliction of duty and putting passengers of an Hyderabad-Delhi IA Flight on the 20th January, 1994, to inconvenience which was diverted to Ahmedabad as reported in the Deccan Herald dated the 23rd January, 1994;

(b) whether there have been any other complaints earlier from VIPs and MPs on harassment by the IA staff at facilitation counters and if so, the deterrent or punitive action initiated on such complaints; and

(c) whether Government would consider such complaints from general public and the VIPs as serious?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Passenger complaints whether from general public or from VIPs are taken by Indian Airlines with a great deal of seriousness.

Judicial inquiry into the crash of IA boeing 737

3073. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a judicial inquiry into the Indian Airlines Boeing 737 crash at Aurangabad in April, 1993 in which 55 persons were killed has held that the crash was due to pilot error, as reported in the Times of India dated the 4th January, 1994; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the pilot's performance during training and subsequent check were not upto the mark and if so, why he was entrusted

with the commanding of the Boeing 737, which called for strict observance of professional norms of air-safety?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The report of the Court of Inquiry appointed to investigate the accident to Indian Airlines B-737 aircraft at Aurangabad, is under consideration of the Government.

Starting of private airlines in North Eastern States

3074. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement issued by the Minister of State for Steel asking the private airlines to start flights to North Eastern States;

(b) if so, why Indian Airlines has failed in fulfiling the needs of the North Eastern States and what are the details of the private carriers proposed to be put in operation in that region; and

(c) whether the Chief Ministers of Seven sister States have made a similar plea; if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Problem of bird bulls at airports

3075. SHRMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in some newspapers about the Blue Bulls keeping planes off from Airport as well as the bird menace at Jaipur Airport;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to free the airport from Blue Bulls of the bird hazards by removing the dumping grounds developed by Jaipur Municipal Boards near the airport;

(c) what are the short-term and long term plans of Government to keep airports-free from various hazards for the safety of passengers; and

(d) the details of losses suffered by the public and private sector airlines in the country from these difficulties, during the last three years and the amount spent on repairs?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to the presence of blue bulls, Patna airport was closed for aircraft operations for a few days in the last week of December, 1993. National Airports Authority has been advised to construct boundary wall with overhang barbed wires around Patna airfield.

The garbage dump which is at a distance of two kilometers from Jaipur airport, is not considered a source of bird menace to aircraft operations at the airport.

The Airfield Environmental Management Committees are continuously trying to control airfield environment to make them unattractive to the birds. Airports in India are being provided with boundary walls in a phased manner.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Inclusion of aviation education in the schools/college curriculam

3076. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in Free Press Journal of February 11, 1994 suggesting the aviation education and safety should be included in school and college curriculam to meet the growing demand of aviation personnel;